



November 7, 2008

Mr. Phil Jones, County Administrator
Bryan County
P.O. Box 430
Pembroke, GA 31321

Subject: Requested Interchange along Interstate 95 at Belfast Siding Road in Bryan County

Dear Mr. Jones:

In 2007, the Georgia Department of Transportation partnered with Bryan County to explore the need for a new interchange along Interstate 95 at Belfast Siding Road. Enclosed are three (3) copies of the Final Report detailing the results, and the supporting analysis documentation, of this study for your use and distribution. Also, enclosed you will find a CD containing an electronic copy of the final report. Additionally, a check, in the amount of \$26,675.47, is enclosed. This check reflects the unused funds from the initial \$100,000 Bryan County provided to fund the study.

As previously discussed, the findings indicate that a new interchange along Interstate 95 at Belfast Siding Road is not warranted. However, the final report did determine that transportation improvements in the IJR study area, other than the requested interchange, could improve access to the current interchanges north and south of the Belfast Siding Road overpass. Chapter five of the Final Report discusses, in detail, the following improvements:

SR 144 at I-95

- Add an additional southbound left turn lane on SB Ramp;
- Signalize intersection at NB Ramps and optimize timings;
- Add an eastbound through lane on SR 144 along with receiving lane.

SR 144 at US 17

- Add two eastbound and two westbound through lanes on SR 144 along with receiving lanes;
- Add two eastbound and westbound right turn lanes and one eastbound and two westbound left turn lanes on SR 144;
- Add two northbound and two southbound through lanes on US 17 along with receiving lanes;
- Add one northbound and two southbound left and one northbound and southbound right turn lane on US 17.

US 17 at I-95 SB Ramps

- Add one eastbound through lane on US 17;
- Add one northbound left turn lane on SB Ramp.
- Add one westbound left turn lane on US 17;
- Add one northbound right turn lane on NB Ramp;
- Signalize intersection at NB Ramps and optimize timings.

US 17 at Belfast Siding Road

- Add a westbound right and left turn lanes on Belfast Siding Road;
- Signalize intersection and optimize timings;
- Add northbound and southbound thru lanes on Belfast Siding Road.

US 17 at SR 196

- Add an eastbound left turn lane on SR 196;
- Signalize intersection and optimize timings.

SR 144 at US 17

- Add a westbound left turn lane on SR 144 to US 17 southbound;
- Add southbound left turn lane on US 17 to SR 144 eastbound.

US 17 at I-95 Ramps

- Add one westbound left turn on US 17 to I-95 SB on-ramps.

While each of these improvements are important, they must be evaluated and have funding identified prior to them moving forward. The Planning Office would like to thank the Bryan County officials for working closely with the Department and the Consultant team throughout the development of the study. The active participation made by all parties will result in a better plan for the future transportation needs along Interstate 95 in the Bryan County region.

If you have any questions regarding the attached study, please feel free to contact Mr. Radney Simpson, with the Department's Planning Office at (404) 631-1782.

Sincerely,



Angela T. Alexander
State Transportation Planning Administrator

Attachments: Report / CD/ Check

ATA:kbm

CC: Michael L. Thomas, P.E., Transportation Planning, Data and Intermodal Development Director
Matthew Fowler, Assistant State Transportation Planning Administrator
Radney Simpson, Central Georgia Planning Branch Chief
Brad Saxon, D-5 District Preconstruction Engineer
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